AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The Eye M.D. Association

Minimum Functional Criteria for E-Prescribing System Selection (December 2008)

1. **Product is certified by SureScripts-RxHub.**

    E-prescribing applications and EHR systems with e-prescribing are certified by SureScripts-Rx Hub. This is the infrastructure that technology vendors, pharmacies, and payers connect to in order to exchange medication information electronically.   The current certification is based on compliance with industry standards, the NCPDP Script Standard. A complete list of SureScripts-RxHub certified products can be found at http://www.surescripts.com/get-connected.aspx?ptype=physician

2. **Product meets Medicare qualifications for an e-prescribing system** **http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/Downloads/E-PrescribingMeasureSpecifications.pdf**

    -   Generate a complete active medication list incorporating electronic data received from applicable pharmacies and benefit managers (PBMs) if available

    -   Select medications, print prescriptions, electronically transmit prescriptions, and conduct all alerts (defined below)

    -   Provide information related to lower cost, therapeutically appropriate alternatives (if any). (The availability of an e-prescribing system to receive tiered formulary information, if available, would meet this requirement for 2009)

    -   Provide information on formulary or tiered formulary medications, patient eligibility, and authorization requirements received electronically from the patient's drug plan (if available)

3. **Product has a sufficient install base of active physician offices with physician office references**

    It is recommended that you call and check out references of active physician e-prescribers to see if the vendor provides good customer support and has good coverage in your area.

4. **Product will comply with requirements and standards released by CCHIT in the future.**

    The Certification Commission for Heatlhcare Information Technology is currently working on criteria for e-prescribing. Vendors should be planning to comply with these requirements in the future.

5. **Product meets HIPAA regulations**

    This is recommended for patient privacy, security of transactions and systems.

6. **Product can export historical data**

    If the physician selects another product or implements an electronic health record system, it is recommended that the vendor be able to export data in a format that can be utilized into other products.

7. **Product allows for surrogate (i.e. technicians or nurses) prescription writing that can be electronically confirmed by the physician**

    The normal workflow may include ophthalmic technicians writing out the prescription for signing by the ophthalmologist.

Evaluation by Physicians Offices: (http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/assets/Documents/e-Prescribing_Clinicians_Guide_Final.pdf)

- Develop your own scenarios that reflect the workflows in your own office setting and ask vendors how their systems would work in these scenarios.

- Compare features and usability of different systems, e.g.: minimal keystrokes to write, renew, send and sign prescriptions, easy patient lookup, ability to renew multiple prescriptions for a patient at once, easy medication search (including trade names, easy pharmacy selection, ability to receive delivery confirmation or failure, etc.)

- Contact other offices with different systems to see what their experience is, any problems they faced and the responsiveness/service they have received from their vendors

- If you have a stand-alone system, ideally, you would want to exchange patient demographic data with the existing office practice management system will eliminate duplicate data entry, saving your staff time. This will likely be an extra charge for the interface, however. This fee needs to be weighed against the benefits.